

## WAR TORN LANDS NO BLOOM AGAIN

Domme Fields Will Wave  
Wheat Once More Next  
Summer.

## ARGONNE UNTOUCHED

Sacred Soil as Americans  
Left It, With Graves  
Carefully Tended.

By JOHN LLOYD BALDERSTON.

"When are the Americans coming?" This question has been asked me everywhere in a tour I have just made of the devastated regions—or, as the French prefer to call them, liberated regions. The question has a different meaning than when it was asked in 1917. Then it was asked by those who wanted to help them in their life-and-death struggle. Now they await the rich tourists who are to come in millions, the small shopkeepers and citizens of the towns believe, scattering gold with every step.

But while the townspeople in Rheims, Arras, Verdun, Ypres and a hundred smaller places prepare "souvenirs" of the war, the Americans are still at the Argonne. The country people have been working hard in these thirteen months since the guns ceased grumbling. They have performed miracles, though there are still a hundred tasks to accomplish for one that has been finished, before Northern France and the wrecked strip of Belgium can be themselves again.

Argonne Scars Remain. Of the whole front, and I have just been through all of the sectors where fighting was most desperate, the scene of America's greatest battle remains, more than any other field of war, as it appeared when the tide of conflict swept it to the Meuse, in 1918. Little reconstruction work has been attempted in the Argonne, through bands of American and English welfare workers have put up wooden shacks for returning fugitives in most of the wrecked villages. But, in the Argonne, the wire and the shell-holes, the smashed tanks and the battered trenches and the infinite debris of battle are untouched.

This is because the Argonne in peace time was sparsely inhabited. There is no incentive to clear up the ruins, and few inhabitants to do it. But the tourist who wants to visit the holy places of his countrymen's valor will find it difficult next spring and summer to do so. All other parts of the front, however, are easily reached by train or car, but the Argonne is almost inaccessible, except to the motorist who takes two or three days' supplies of food with him. There are no railroads and few roads, and the latter are bad ones, as my chauffeur of this week can testify. But all the more impressive in their lonely and proud isolation are the ruins of the Argonne. The white crosses in the Argonne cemetery at Romagne, which suddenly came upon the Argonne who had himself as a figure in the Argonne.

Graves Not Neglected. These graves are not neglected as was at one time reported. First the Americans, and now French and Americans as well have cared for them, and every day one or two new rows are dug to receive the remains of doughboys who died alone in tangled, untrodden thickets and have just been found there, or whose bodies are discovered in shallow and temporary resting places.

There will be no lack of facilities for the visitor to Paris to see the scene of the summer fighting around Verdun, the great battle of the Marne, and the scene of the Argonne. The French broke open the Argonne for the first time in July, but even now, there is little to tell of war, there will be less still next spring or summer. For this country is rich farming land as the Argonne is, and the tourist must go elsewhere to see what modern war does to the earth.

Somme Plain Reclaimed. On the great plain of the Somme, fought over three and four times, I have just seen how hollow were the prophecies of those who said that this land had been blasted and would be a desert for generations by the millions of shells, their upheaval of the subsoil, and by the poisonous chemicals that were to discourage nature herself. Only trees could grow in the places of death, we were told by experts.

The patient tiller of the soil in Picardy has in one year shown that his faith in his land is not in vain. He has turned the land into a garden, and he has crawled into a cellar, pre-empted an abandoned army hut, or accepted a shack from a welfare unit. Somewhere, I don't know where, he has obtained horses and farm implements, and with awe-inspiring diligence he has set to work. The government helped, of course, but the government could do little without the proverbial hard work of the peasant, and of his wife and children, too. There have been hordes of German prisoners employed in the stricken country helping to repair a tithe of the damage they did, but most of them are working in cities and towns and the farmer has had little good of them.

Digs Out War Litter. First with infinite patience—from an auto I saw the work in progress in a hundred places—he fills in the trenches and shell-holes and digs out the war litter of bombs and shells, wire and barbed wire, and everything that once were uniforms. Then he levels it all off, and then he plows. Three days ago I saw as fine a piece of rich farm land, plowed in clean, even furrows, with splendid black earth showing where the blade had turned it back, as I have ever seen at home. It was a field situated right in the middle of the Hindenburg line, near Croisilles, where our Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth divisions charged on a memorable September day fifteen months ago. That field proved to me, once and for all, that nothing man can do to good land can make it bad land, if patience and willingness to work.

To be sure, over the whole waste of the Western front relatively little has been done. Only the best farming land yet been reclaimed. Probably most interest is centered in the ruined cities; I have been in the

largest of these within the past week, and found everywhere, in Rheims and Verdun, as in Arras and Lens and Ypres, not much improvement excepting less litter.

No Building Materials.

This is accounted for by the lack of building materials in France, and of the railway transport to haul such materials in at hand. In all these cities, men told me of how contracts for reconstruction have been let for months, but with no results because the contractors cannot get the steel, the bricks, or the machinery needed. Everyone in Europe these days looks to America for help when anything goes wrong, and in the ruined cities they say pathetically: "You have so much over there; why cannot you send us some and help us?"

Arras, especially, I found hopes for American aid, and is disappointed that it is not already on the way. I hadn't the heart to tell the dignitaries with whom I lunched there that, so far as I knew, the American cities which had enthusiastically proposed, unofficially, of course, to "adopt" Arras had now forgotten all about their generous suggestion. The great railway company of the north is rebuilding its shattered Arras station, and there is some hope that it will show some self in daylight; but in a cursory examination of the city I saw only two or three building operations in progress that were other than temporary repairs.

Rheims, a larger town than Arras and more knocked about, is in similar plight. Until the government helps them, the citizens with the best will in the world can do nothing. The Cathedral, being a great national monument, is under the care of the authorities in Paris, and the work of making it safe is proceeding slowly, but with methodical care.

## JUDGE RESIGNS FROM D. C. BENCH

Milton Strasburger, Quits  
Municipal Court After  
5 1-2 Years.

Expressing a desire to return to private life and the practice of law, Judge Milton Strasburger, for five and one-half years on the District Municipal Court bench, yesterday tendered his resignation to the President.

In his letter of resignation, Judge Strasburger said he had enjoyed his judicial duties and that it was with a feeling of regret that he found it necessary to return to private life. Judge Strasburger's appointment came unsolicited in April 6, 1914, at the recommendation of the Attorney General. He was appointed for a four-year term, and on April 6, 1918, was reappointed for another term that was to expire April 2, 1922.

It was known some time ago that Judge Strasburger contemplated retiring from the bench. He delayed his resignation because of the housing "problem" which came under jurisdiction of the Municipal Court by virtue of the Salsburg law. This jurisdiction was repealed by the Ball law.

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY.

The New Year opens with a number of changes at the Courthouse. William H. Duncan succeeding Alan B. Prosser as clerk of the court, the latter having accepted a position with the Arlington Trust Company; Harry K. Green succeeds Duncan as Commissioner of Revenue. A. C. Clements has replaced Howard K. Fields as sheriff, and Thomas de Lashmutt succeeds William C. Wilbert as supervisor of Arlington district. The sheriff and Commissioner of Revenue have announced their intention of making a complete change in the personnel of their offices.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Alexandria County Civic Federation to be held at the courthouse Tuesday a committee will report on improvement at the approach to the new Key Bridge. The following names will be submitted by the Clarendon Citizens' Association for appointment to the new county constabulary: A. F. Snyder, A. E. Payne, C. H. McCallis, J. Thomas Manning, Arthur Welch, J. M. Kilgore, C. C. Carpenter, A. C. Putnam, G. C. Wrenn, L. H. Thompson, R. H. Colley, J. R. Pendleton, T. S. O'Halloran, O. G. Clewin, D. J. Harrison, C. W. Bonfield and A. L. Reinburg.

The first meeting of the new board of supervisors, composed of Clarendon R. Abell, Washington district; Edward R. Abell, Jefferson district, and Thomas de Lashmutt, Arlington district, will be held Tuesday afternoon.

The Patrons' League of the Clarendon Public Schools will meet Thursday.

An impromptu New Year Eve, in honor of Sheriff A. C. Clements, was staged at the store of A. L. Reinburg, in Clarendon, winding up with fireworks and a noisy ushering in of the New Year.

A movement is on foot to secure a Congressional appropriation for an office on the Bridge Reservation at Rosslyn to house the bridge offices, post office and deputy marshal.

## Nuxated Iron Will Increase Strength of Delicate People In Two Weeks Time

In many instances, says City Physician, persons have suffered for years without knowing what made them feel tired, listless and run-down, when their real trouble was lack of iron in the blood—how to tell. If you were to make an actual blood test on all people who are ill you would probably be greatly astonished at the exceedingly large number who lack iron and who are ill for no other reason than the lack of iron. The moment iron is supplied a multitude of dangerous symptoms disappear. Without iron the blood at once loses the power to change food into living tissue, and therefore nothing you eat does you good; you don't get the strength out of it. Your food merely passes through your system like corn through a mill with the rollers so wide apart that the mill can't grind. As a result of this continuous blood and nerve starvation people generally become weakened, nervous and all run down and frequently develop all sorts of conditions. One is too thin; another is burdened with unhealthy fat; some are so weak they can hardly sleep at night; others are irritable and sleep at day; some are listless and lack physical power and endurance. In such cases it is worse than foolishness to take stimulating medicines or narcotic drugs, which only whip up your flagging vital powers for the moment,

## BOARD OF TRADE TO BANQUET COO

Mid-Winter Festivity Plans  
Arranged by Charles  
Waters' Committee.

Invitations for the mid-winter dinner of the membership committee of the Washington Board of Trade were issued yesterday. Six hundred guests will attend the banquet February 3 at Wardman Park Hotel.

Chairman Charles J. Waters, of the arrangements committee, has arranged an elaborate entertainment program.

A big cabaret will be presented which the committee guarantees to interest the most tired of Washington's business men. Besides talent from local sources, it has been arranged to have artists from the studios of Luigi Albertini, late ballet master of the Metropolitan Opera Company, and from the Helen Moller Temple of the Dance in New York appear for exclusive performances.

Chairman Waters' committee includes: Fred J. White, George Pitt, Arthur Carr, E. E. Ramsey, J. Harry Cunningham and Richard L. Sullivan. Final arrangements for the regular meeting of the Board of Trade on January 9 at the Willard Hotel will be completed tomorrow at a conference of the board of directors.

## INSPECTOR URGES LAW FOR SAFE ELEVATORS

Elevator safety devices to prevent accidents while loading or unloading will become compulsory equipment for Washington buildings if a recommendation being prepared by William I. Evans, chief elevator inspector of the District, is carried out by the Commissioners.

Inspector Evans intends to seek an amendment to the elevator code which would force constructors to equip elevators in all buildings with devices to safeguard passengers' lives. Such equipment already has been installed in one large building here.

\$9,000,000 Worth of War  
Savings Stamps in Month

A total of \$9,124,592.13 was received in December through sales of war savings stamps and Treasury savings certificates, the savings division of the Treasury Department has announced. Officials expect, in view of the steady increase in sales in recent months, that 1920 will see still greater public interest in the absorption of these securities. The increasing sales are attributed to the growth in popular appreciation of the sale of the savings habit in solving present economic problems, and the particular worth of government securities as a means of regular investment.

## "Let Joy Be Unconfined," Says Judge, Freeing Rum

"Let joy be unconfined." The foregoing was the indorsement of Judge Hardison on a order yesterday for the release from police custody of a case of whisky. The order was presented to him by Attorney Thomas L. Jones, who represented Joseph W. Thompson, charged in the Police Court with violating the military zone law. Thompson was acquitted, as it was shown he was transporting the liquor through the District to another State. Prosecutor Ralph Given also indorsed the order and Thompson got his property.

## NEW YORK HOTEL ARRIVALS.

New York, Jan. 3.—The following are registered here from Washington, D. C.: Navarre, W. H. Belt, W. J. Francis, D. J. Sullivan, H. E. Surpin, J. H. Claffey, A. T. Burkin, Grand, J. M. Brame, W. C. Henricks, Mrs. I. M. Terry; Continental, S. H. Conner, P. C. Darter, J. O'Connell, Brozell, M. G. Douglar, Latham, P. B. Levick, Wallick, G. P. Locke, Alcazar, T. J. Rowland, Holland, Miss R. Sheehan; Sheriden, C. C. Thompson; Wellington, F. W. Fluke, Longacre, H. P. Harris, St. Andrew, E. O. Kane; Park Avenue, R. Robinson.

## Kendall Sunday School Elects.

At the recent annual election of the Kendall Baptist Sunday School the following officers were chosen: J. T. Payne, superintendent; Mrs. W. E. Carter, secretary and superintendent of the home department; G. H. Eaton, treasurer; Ray D. Wine, librarian; Mrs. Kate S. Outwater, superintendent of the primary department; W. H. H. Shelley, teacher of the Men's Bible Class, and Mrs. Theron Outwater, teacher of the Senior Women's Bible Class.

## Pastor Givs Souvenirs.

The New Year service at the First Baptist Church was unique in many respects. The Rev. Dr. Henry Allen Tupper, pastor, gave a reception to hundreds of his friends. Delightful refreshments were served under the direction of a committee of ladies, and Dr. Tupper presented to everyone present a souvenir from the Far East.

Open Daily at 8 A. M.

The Hub Furniture Co., 7th and D Sts., N. W.

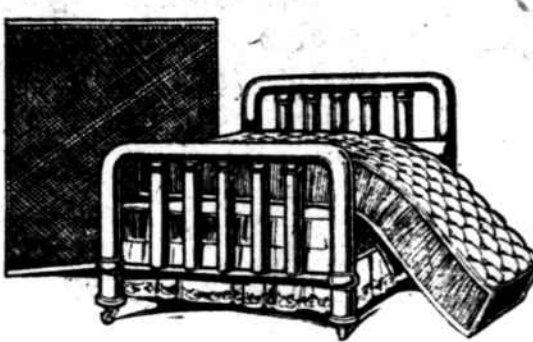
Close Daily at 6 P. M.

# And NOW Comes The Hub's January Furniture Clearance!

An event we stage every year to enable us to clear out all winter and fall stocks, odds and ends and discontinued lines that we may provide room for incoming stocks.

This season the values are even more extraordinary—the savings generous and real. You are privileged to use YOUR CREDIT as usual and profit by the underselling opportunities.

2-In. Continuous Post  
White Enamel Bed Outfit  
A splendid outfit consisting of a full-size 2-inch, continuous-post white enamel Bed with 2-inch fillers, a woven wire spring and a soft top and bottom reversible mattress. The outfit complete as illustrated. Liberal Credit \$34.75



Oil Heater  
\$3.95  
Guaranteed odorless and safe. Provides heat in rooms when most desired. Helps to conserve your coal pile.



KROEHLER DAVEN-O

## January Clearance

## DAVENPORTS

Fumed Oak Davenport Bed, upholstered in imitation leather, \$65.00 value. January Reduction Sales Price \$49.75

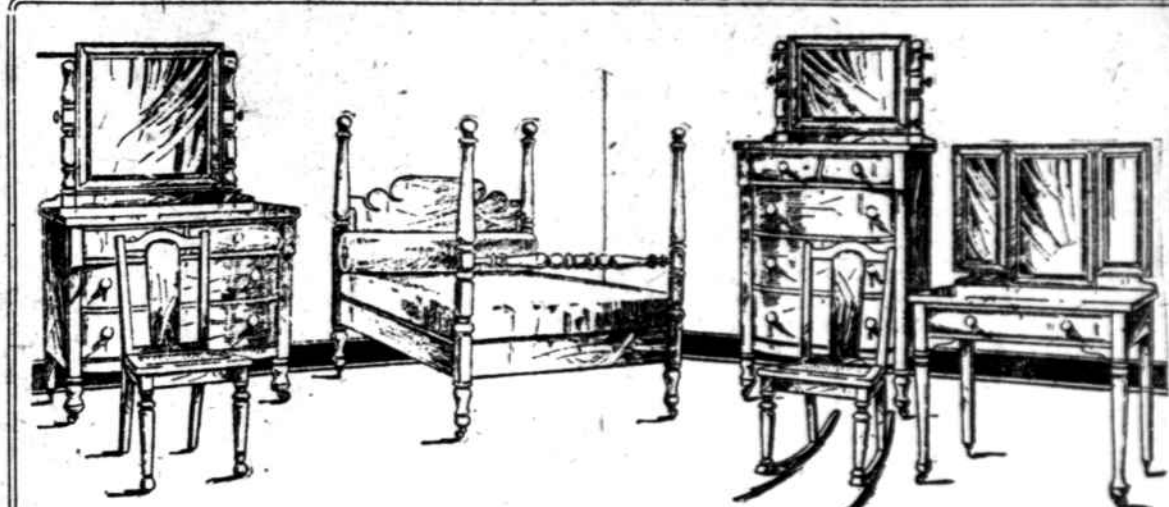
Mahogany Frame Davenport Bed, upholstered and covered in genuine Spanish leather. Regular price \$97.75. January Reduction Sales Price \$74.75

Massive Mahogany Cane Back End Davenport Bed, upholstered and covered with tapestry. Regular price, \$108.00; January Reduction Sales Price \$79.75

6-Cup Aluminum Coffee Percolator \$1.29



Made of pure aluminum. Ebonized wood handle.



## January Reduction in Bedroom Suites - Liberal Credit Terms

Solid Oak Bedroom Suite, three pieces, consisting of Dresser, Chiffonier and strong, continuous-post white enamel Bed. January Reduction Sales Price \$49.75

Four-Piece Period Bedroom Suite, consisting of American walnut Dresser, Chiffonier, Toilet Table and 2-inch, continuous-post brass Bed; January Reduction Sales Price \$110.00

Four-piece Adam Period Suite of American walnut, consisting of large Dresser, triplicate mirror Toilet Table, Chiffonier and wood Bed. January Reduction Sales Price \$159.75



Liberal Credit Terms

## January Clearance of Three-Piece Den Suites

Three-piece Fumed Oak Living-Room Suite, exactly like the illustration—Armchair, Rocker and Settee. Fumed oak frames, automobile seats of genuine Spanish leather. January Reduction Sales Price \$54.75

Three-piece Living-Room Suite, consisting of fumed oak Table with magazine racks and drawer, Armchair and Rocker upholstered in imitation leather, \$32.75 value; January Reduction Sales Price \$24.75

Four-piece Fumed Oak Living-Room Suite, consisting of large Table, Settee, Armchair and Rocker; also finished in mahogany, upholstered in imitation leather; also finished in mahogany with seats of velours. Choice in the January Reduction Sales \$109.75

Coal Heater \$10.75



Our 'Steel Drum' type of heater that's proving so satisfactory with our customers. Pipe free.

THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY  
THE GREATER HUB FURNITURE CO.  
SEVENTH & D STREETS